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General Assembly

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Fifty-eighth session
Agenda item 158
International convention against the reproductive cloning of human beings

Costa Rica: draft resolution

International convention against the reproductive cloning of human beings

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Universal Declaration on the Human Genome and Human Rights,[1] adopted by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on 11 November 1997, and in particular article 11 thereof, which states that practices which are contrary to human dignity, such as the reproductive cloning of human beings, shall not be permitted,

Recalling also its resolution 53/152 of 9 December 1998, by which it endorsed the Universal Declaration on the Human Genome and Human Rights,

Bearing in mind Commission on Human Rights resolution 2003/69 of 25 April 2003, entitled "Human rights and bioethics", adopted at the fifty-ninth session of the Commission,

Bearing also in mind Economic and Social Council resolution 2001/39, entitled "Genetic privacy and non-discrimination", of 26 July 2001,

Aware of the rapid development of the life sciences and of ethical concerns raised by certain of their applications with regard to the dignity of the human race and the human rights and fundamental freedoms of the individual,

Concerned at recently disclosed information on research into and attempts at the creation of human beings through cloning processes,

Convinced that human cloning, for any purpose whatsoever, is unethical, morally repugnant and contrary to due respect for the human person, and that it cannot be justified or accepted,

[1] United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organizations, *Records of the General Conference, Twenty-ninth session*, vol. 1, *Resolutions*, resolution 16.

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Recalling that recognition of the inherent dignity and equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world, as stated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,

Seeking to promote scientific and technical progress in the fields of biology and genetics in a manner respectful of human rights and for the benefit of all,

Concerned about the serious difficulties of a medical, physical, psychological and social nature that human cloning may imply for the individuals involved, and alarmed that it may cause the exploitation of women,

Recalling its resolution 56/93 of 12 December 2001, by which it decided to establish an Ad Hoc Committee, open to all States Members of the United Nations or members of specialized agencies or of the International Atomic Energy Agency,

Determined to prevent as a matter of urgency such an attack on the human dignity of the individual,

1. *Requests* the Ad Hoc Committee to be reconvened for one week during the fifty-ninth session of the General Assembly in order to prepare, as a matter of urgency, the draft text of an international convention against human cloning, bearing in mind that it will not prohibit the use of nuclear transfer or other cloning techniques to produce deoxyribonucleic acid molecules, organs, plants, tissues, cells other than human embryos or animals other than humans, and recommends that the Sixth Committee designate specific dates for the meetings of the Ad Hoc Committee during the consideration of this item at that session;

2. *Also requests* the Ad Hoc Committee to consider, in developing the draft convention, the proposals put forward during the fifty-eighth session of the General Assembly;

3. *Solemnly declares* that, pending the adoption of an international convention against human cloning, States shall prohibit any research, experiment, development or application in their territories or areas under their jurisdiction or control of any technique aimed at human cloning;

4. *Calls upon* States to adopt such measures as may be necessary to prohibit those techniques of genetic engineering that may have adverse consequences on the respect for human dignity;

5. *Strongly encourages* States and other entities to direct funds that might have been used for human cloning technologies to pressing global issues in developing countries such as famine, desertification, infant mortality and diseases, including the human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide the Ad Hoc Committee with the necessary facilities for the performance of its work;

7. *Invites* the Ad Hoc Committee to take into consideration the contributions of United Nations agencies and competent international organizations in the process of negotiations;

8. *Requests* the Ad Hoc Committee to report on its work to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session;

9. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-ninth session an item entitled "International convention against human cloning".